Deletion of objectionable portions from text books

*65. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and the National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) have conveyed to the Supreme Court that they were willing to delete text books the portions termed as objectionable;

(b) if so, whether Government had changed the school syllabi to promote a particular political and religious ideology;

(c) whether the objectionable portions have been removed from the syllabi; and

(d) whether most of the States have refused to implement the National Curriculum framework for school education imposed through the NCERT syllabus and text books in their States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court was informed on behalf of both Union of India and NCERT during the course of hearing of the petition that if certain portions in the curriculum are identified as objectionable, there would be no objection to consider their deletion.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The changes effected were not intended to promote a particular political and religious ideology.

(d) While using the syllabi and curricular materials developed by the NCERT as exemplar materials, every State has been producing textbooks through their own designated agencies and the NCERT has been rendering all expected assistance in this regard. According to available information, a few States like West Bengal and Kerala have never in the past accepted the textbooks prepared by the NCERT.

Closure of Sindri and Durgapur fertilizer units

*67. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state: